



2014 Joint Board-Senate Annual Meeting: Follow-up Actions

Research and International Relations

January 2015

Preamble

McGill is presently engaged in a process of transformation to become a more open and active partner in the global innovation ecosystem. On 4 November 2014, McGill University held its annual Joint Board-Senate meeting on the theme of “*Strengthening McGill’s Engagement with the External Community through Research and Innovation*”. In the context of this discussion, it was recognized that “innovation” embraces scientific and technological solutions to market problems, as well as novel approaches to meeting societal needs, advancing the public good, and adding to our collective culture in meaningful and enduring ways. It was also recognized that innovation and its community-engagement outcomes serve to advance the teaching and research missions of the University.

Key themes and proposed follow-up actions

Key Theme	Proposed response: 1 January to 31 July 2014
Enhancing and integrating messages and modes of communication about opportunities for innovation and engagement.	Research and International Relations to undertake the development of an integrated online presence targeting students, researchers, faculty and external partners, providing a point of entry for available programs, courses, resources, supports and opportunities for innovative activity, and promoting awareness of these across our two campuses and within the broader community.
Addressing barriers to interdisciplinary contact, research and engagement.	The Provost’s Office in consultation with Research and International Relations, McGill’s Deans and Chairs, to consider measures for better enabling interdisciplinary engagement across McGill’s campuses.
Examining possibilities for extending and deepening experiential learning opportunities and formally recognizing these.	Collaborate with the Deputy Provost to expand on these opportunities via the McGill Commitment.
A McGill-wide reflection about how to enhance the University’s understanding of community needs and our capacity to respond to these, particularly through social innovation.	Consider undertaking consultations in a wide array of fora, with proposals and recommendations flowing back to the Office of the Provost and Research and International Relations on how to better support needs-based social innovation in McGill’s community engagement activities.